REMARKS

In order to clarify the structure of the invention, the specification and Fig. 2 have been amended. Please enter the amendments.

On page 2 of the Action, the drawings were objected to. In view of the objection, a proposed drawing correction for correcting numeral in Fig. 4 has been filed.

On page 2 of the Action, claims 2-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because of the antecedent of "the other end". In this respect, the portion of claim 2 has been changed. However, "the other end" is used corresponding to "one end". This kind of usage of "one" and "the other" is commonly accepted in the claims. Therefore, in claim 1, similar terminology has been used.

On page 3 of the Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Katsuda et al. On page 4 of the Action, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuda in view of Green, Jr. et al.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 2 and 6 have been amended, and claims 3 and 5 have been cancelled.

As clearly recited in amended claim 1, a gas generator of the invention comprises a container, a fixation area increasing portion, a gas generating agent, an igniter and an annular squib holder. The container includes an outer-shell member with an opening, and a partition member disposed at least partly inside the outer-shell member to form a plurality of chambers inside the container and fixed to the outer-shell member. The partition member has one end fixed to an inside surface of the outer-shell member and the other end passing through and extending outward from the opening of the outer-shell member. The gas generating agent is disposed inside the plurality of chambers of the container, and the igniter is disposed in the partition member for igniting the gas generating agent.

In the invention, the fixation area increasing portion is formed of an annular portion provided at the outer-shell member to protrude inwardly of the outer-shell member for defining the opening and having an inner edge. The annular portion fits onto the partition member for increasing connection between the outer-shell member and the partition

member.

Also, the annular squib holder is located inside the partition member to support the igniter thereon and to face the fixation area increasing portion of the outer-shell member. The squib holder has an upper edge contacting the partition member, which is substantially located in a horizontal level where the inner edge of the annular portion is located. The squib holder and the annular portion sandwich the partition member therebetween to hold and support the partition member. Accordingly, when the gas is generated, the container can hold the partition member, and the gas does not leak at the connecting portion between the partition member and the container.

In Katsuda et al. cited in the Action, an air bag generator includes a housing 3 formed of a diffuser shell 1 and a closure shell 2, a cylindrical member 16 located in the housing 3, and a cylindrical collar member 100 disposed in the bottom of the cylindrical member 16. The closure shell 2 has an outward bent area. Thus, the cylindrical member 16 is held between the outward bent area and the collar member 100.

In the invention, the fixation area increasing portion is formed of the annular portion provided at the outer-shell member to protrude inwardly of the outer-shell member. The annular portion fits onto the partition member for increasing connection between the outer-shell member and the partition member. In Katsuda et al., the outward bent area is formed at the closure shell 2, but the outward bent area is bent outwardly, not inwardly, different from the invention.

In the invention, when the gas pressure is increased inside the container, the gas pressure is applied at the corner of the bent portion, as shown in Fig. 3, so that the gas does not leak easily. However, in Katsuda et al., when the gas pressure is increased inside the housing, the closure shell 2 can easily deform outwardly at the corner between the shell 2 and the collar member 100 to thereby cause the gas leakage.

In the invention, further the squib holder has an upper edge contacting the partition member, which is substantially located in a horizontal level where the inner edge of the annular portion is located. Thus, the partition member can be securely held. In Katsuda

et al, the upper edge of the collar member 100 and the bent portion are not located on the same level.

The features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Katsuda et al.

In Green, Jr. et al., a lower housing part 40 has a flange 70 protruding inwardly for receiving an initiator housing 92. An initiator retainer 96 is located inside the initiator housing 92 away from the flange 70. In the invention, the partition member is held between the squib holder and the annular portion, but the initiator retainer 96 in Green, Jr. et al. is simply disposed inside the initiator housing 92. Although the flange 70 of the lower housing part 40 projects inwardly of the inflator, the features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Green, Jr. et al.

In case Katsuda et al. and Green, Jr. et al. are combined, the outward bent area of the closure shell 2 of Katsuda et al. may be bent inwardly, as shown in Green, Jr. et al. However, such a combination does not disclose or suggest that the upper edge of the squib holder contacting the partition member is substantially located in a horizontal level where the inner edge of the annular portion is located.

Therefore, even if the cited references are combined, the present invention is not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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